

Group II, claims 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 20 and 22-24, drawn to a process of graft polymerizing natural rubber, classified in Class 525, subclass 311; and

Group III, claims 10, 12, 17-19, 21 and 25-27, drawn to a process of epoxidizing natural rubber, classified in Class 525, subclass 387.

Applicants elect with traverse, Group I comprising claims 1-3, 7 and 8.

Applicants traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reasons.

According to MPEP §803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner *must* examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. As evidence of the undue burden, the Examiner has listed a single class to be searched for each of Groups I-III. Clearly the search of two extra subclasses would not amount to an undue burden on the Examiner to consider all of claims 1-3 and 7-27. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner rejoins Groups II and III with Group I.

However, should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that should the product claims be found allowable, the process claims

which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claims are to be rejoined, see MPEP § 821.04.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not include pending claim 14 in any of Groups I-III. It appears that claim 14 should also be included in Group II.

Early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

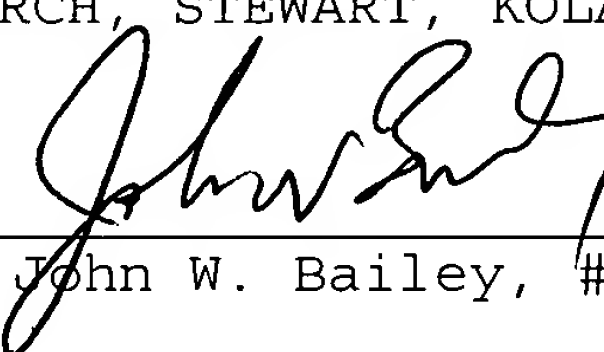
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 43,575) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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